

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2001      LB 429

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, on that last bill, I didn't...of Senator Schrock's, I didn't have a chance to respond to his needling comment about me. But all I will say is he put me between a Schrock and a hard place. (Laughter) But we are going to work that out. On this bill, remember, I hope, if you paid attention to what Senator Smith said, we have a short session next year. If this bill is on the agenda without having gone through the ordinary process, we're going to take eight hours on it at all three stages. Some people think I have a short attention span. They think my memory will fade. But brothers and sisters, when it comes to something like this, a year from now my memory will be as sharp, vivid, and precise as it is right now. This bill has been given all the time it deserves. If a different form of the bill is to be before us next year, let it be introduced as other bills are. And I'm telling you all in advance, and I want it on the record, because I'm going to get the transcription of this debate. I will not forget it, but others will. If this bill, LB 429, is on the agenda next January, or any time during the session, this particular bill, I am going to take it to cloture at every stage of debate, if you all decide you want to do that. I don't care what else we're talking about. I don't care what issues I have put before us. I'm playing hardball politics now. This is politics that we're discussing. And I want you all to know that I am a practical politician. I'm not going to trick anybody. I'm saying what I'm saying as emphatically as I can, that this bill has had all the time that it should get. It has had more time than it deserved. But the grocery industry had said, they have dug their heels in, this is an important bill. And I pointed out that you all wanted to put me in my place, you wanted to stand up to me, and you wanted to show me what you could do with me by voting against the kill motion. And I accepted the challenge. You delayed it the other day, but here we are with it again now. And the people out in the lobby who kept this bill in front of us for as long as it was in front of us are now saying, put it off, and let us do it again next year. Like the song I've quoted, from Herman's Hermits, next year: second verse, same as the first; that's what it can be. But we will sing that verse over and over and over again. And because sometimes my wounds take a while to scab over, I may have to get